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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,527	06/27/2003	James M. Uhlik	SGT-53	6037
23599	7590	12/21/2004	EXAMINER	
MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C. 2200 CLARENDON BLVD. SUITE 1400 ARLINGTON, VA 22201			HUG, ERIC J	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1731		

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/607,527	UHLIK, JAMES M.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric Hug	1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-10 and 12 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 13-17,23 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 11,20-22,25 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 June 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 11 is objected to because in the preamble, the phrase “A transport assembly according to claim 7” should read “A float bath according to claim 7”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 20 is objected to as claiming the same feature as in claim 15. Also, it is unclear what is meant by the phrase “wherein the transport assembly is at least one wheel”, as the transport assembly cannot be just one wheel.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 13-17, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Long (US 3,512,950).

Long discloses a method for making glass sheets wherein a measured quantity of molten glass is formed in a traveling mold and then transferred to the surface of a molten metal bath. An alternate method comprises placing the traveling mold directly onto the surface of the molten metal bath, thereby using the surface of the molten metal bath itself as a mold bottom.

The molten glass is first produced in a tank or continuous furnace. Thereafter the process can be either continuous, non-continuous, or semi-continuous. In the continuous or non-continuous method, the liquid molten glass is poured into a mold comprising a bottom part and a frame resting on it. After molding the glass, the frame is removed and the glass sheet is slipped onto the surface of the molten metal bath. In the semi-continuous method, the mold comprises only the frame, wherein the bottom part is itself the molten metal bath.

As a means to increase the rate of production, a pouring chute delivering molten glass from the furnace to a mold may pivot between two positions and periodically feed two parallel lines of molds. Also, one glass furnace can feed more than one pouring chutes alternately, and thus feed several lines of molds. When the mold is in transport from the pouring position to the molten metal bath, the bottom part and frame of the mold are supported on carrier 14. Carrier 14, rolling on rails 15, is moved in sequence from compartment 7 to compartment 8 and to compartment 9, and is returned back to compartment 7. The molded glass sheet 3, in a plastic condition, is free to slide onto the surface of molten tin bath after carrier 14 has been tipped up by lift devices (not shown).

Regarding the claims, the traveling mold is effective an adapter that can deliver an amount of glass from any furnace to any molten metal bath. It has wheels and rails, and at least one lift is provided to raise and tilt the mold as needed in order to move the molded glass to the molten metal bath.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 and 12 are allowed.

Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 1-10 and 12 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a float bath with a transport assembly for moving the float bath among a plurality of units.

Claims 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, and 26 are allowable for providing the adapter with the features of the lift, the carriage-positioning member, and the lip.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Plumat (US 3,305,339) discloses a variably inclined plate for transferring molten glass from a furnace to a molten metal float bath.

Anderson (US 4,162,907) discloses a glass forming apparatus having multiple float baths and variable extruding devices on each float bath that receive molten glass.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eric Hug
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